Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard

Geography Level 1

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91012

Describe aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue

An annotated exemplar is an extract of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade boundaries.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Boundary: Low Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. For Excellence, the student needs to comprehensively describe aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This typically involves:

- fully describing the different viewpoints and/or opinions individuals (or groups) hold in relation to the issue, using specific information and geographic terminology and concepts, and showing insight and incorporating stakeholder belief, values and/or perspectives
- fully supporting a recommended course of action with detailed reasons, demonstrating why the chosen course of action is better than the other courses of action.

The student demonstrates Excellence through effective use of geographic terminology, and detailed evidence relating to the contemporary geographic issue.

Two different viewpoints held in relation to the issue are fully described. The environmentalist perspective and values are clearly identified, described and supported with quotes (1) (5). Geographic concepts of change (2) and interaction (3) are incorporated into the description, and specific information is used (4).

The recommendation is supported with detailed reasons. How the selected option is better than one of the other courses of action is clearly described, with positives and negatives weighed against the proposed option (6).

For a more secure Excellence, the student would need to consider both alternative options, and compare them with the recommendation to demonstrate why the chosen course of action is better.
The geographic issue relates to a coastal high-rise development.

Viewpoints

The environmentalist Theresa Green is against the development of high rise building along Charters Beach because she believes it will seriously affect the natural environment and beach ecosystem. She strongly values the natural environment...many different life forms rely on the ecosystem in the dunes along the foreshore such as plants, bird and insect life. Green states that “the development will come at the cost of the natural environment which cannot be recreated”. She stresses that changing one part of this ecosystem will create a chain effect which will ultimately destroy it. For example, the highly endangered Katipo spider is at risk because it needs an environment on the sand dunes that contains drift wood and other specific vegetation. She says “having high-rise apartment blocks and increasing population densities in the area is just going to create more disturbances for this highly endangered native spider”. It can be seen from this quote that Green is concerned that the interaction between increasing population densities as a consequence of the development of the high rise apartment blocks will have a significant impact on this spider… As well as the Katipo, many other insect species inhabit this ecosystem e.g. moth Ericodesma aerodana … Green is also concerned about the actual dune system of Charters Beach, “these sand dunes provide the important function of providing protection from tsunami and stopping wind borne sand blowing into properties on Marine Parade”. … The increasing population including people and dogs could damage the dunes by harming the vegetation that stabilises them. Plants such as sand primelea, tussock, sea spurge and pingao will not survive being constantly trampled on and without them the sand dunes will change rapidly. Green says “I can’t support this development at such a high cost to our beautiful coastal habitat.” She is against the development because the developers are more interested in the economic gains to be made with no consideration for the fragile ecosystem of the beach area. This viewpoint provides an environmental perspective which clashes with the economic perspective of the developers…

Recommendation

From the three possible options, we can conclude that the best course of action is to build a high-rise development along the waterfront. Two very convincing arguments for this option are…

The main issue with this option is the harm done to the sand dune habitat…but this can be controlled by using paths to the beach etc.

Another favourable course of action is to focus on developing an arts and crafts heritage area. This also has clear economic advantages, but these are not as strong as with the high-rise option and its expected impact on the Marine Parade shopping area… Arts and crafts could be incorporated into the development for option 1. The second option would not have the future potential for growth of this area and is a narrow focus because…
### Grade Boundary: High Merit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.</th>
<th>For Merit, the student needs to describe, in depth, aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue.</th>
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<tbody>
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The student demonstrates depth in the full description of one viewpoint and the recommendation. Both responses are beginning to demonstrate evidence of a comprehensive description needed for Excellence.

Two different viewpoints held in relation to the issue were described in detail. An extract from the stronger of the two viewpoints shows clear identification of a viewpoint (1), supporting quotes (2) and use of geographic terminology. The concept of change is used, and supported with a flow diagram (3).

A recommendation is supported with detailed reasons and brief reference to other courses of action (4).

To reach Excellence, the student would need to show understanding of the stakeholder beliefs, values and/or perspectives for both viewpoints. A fully supported recommendation would provide more detail when comparing the other options.
The geographic issue relates to a coastal high rise development.

VIEWPOINTS:

TG is strongly against the plans for high-rise development in Charters Beach. Her views are influenced by the serious impacts that it will have on the environment. Any major development will disturb the sand dunes, which shelter the water-front suburb “the dunes have an important function of protecting the settlement from tsunami and also stopping the wind borne sand from blowing onto properties along Marine Parade” … Another change caused by large scale development will be more people walking through the dunes upsetting this habitat... TG says that “high rise development could further endanger many species like the katipo spider which relies on this sand dune habitat for survival”…

High rise development close to the beach will not only change the habitat for plants and insects but it will change the environment for local residents who could get lots more sand blowing into their garden.

- Plants on the sand dunes get trampled and die.
- Dunes are unprotected and sand is easily blown inland.
- Sand is blown over Marine Parade and into shops and people’s properties.

RECOMMENDATION:

The first option, which is to build a high-rise development along the waterfront, has much stronger economic benefits than the other options so I think it is best for the future. Leaving Marine Parade as it is now is really just avoiding making a decision about the future development of the village. The high-rise development will create an increase in population and this will lead to a demand for more shops and services…With more businesses there will be more job opportunities. There is a small Four Square Superette on Marine Parade but most people travel 15 km to the bigger supermarket, this shop could become a proper supermarket including a deli and butcher which would be a good for locals as they wouldn’t have to travel to do their food shopping… As the shopping centre and population expands more businesses would be attracted e.g. another café…
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<tr>
<td>The student demonstrates in depth descriptions for two different viewpoints. The description of the viewpoints of local residents is supported, with specific case study evidence showing clear links to the issue (1).</td>
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<td>For each course of action, either the strengths or weaknesses are described in detail, including specific evidence (2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>For a more secure Merit, the student would need to describe in detail each of the strengths and weaknesses. For example, detail could be provided by naming the alternative routes or comparing the distance (3).</td>
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The geographic issue relates to road closures due to landslides.

Different viewpoints

Local Residents:
Woodville residents like JM are especially concerned about this issue because commuting to Palmerston North has become longer and more expensive. Many Woodville residents work in PN, JM works at Massey University and she has had to extend her commuting time by over 30 minutes and her fuel budget has gone up by over $60 a week. $60 x 4 x 15 months is $3,600 on average, “That is a lot of money for people to find just to get to work”. As a result, many people are cross about their increased work costs and are seeking compensation or a guarantee that this situation will not happen again. Ashurst residents have been affected as the bypass route…

Courses of action

Keep the status quo – repair the road and move the slips when they happen

A strength of this option is that overall the road is in great condition. A lot of work and $19 million has been spent on the road. This includes sealing and addition of extras slow vehicle bays. A large part of the funding was spent on preventative methods to reduce the chance of future landslips and rock falls. Over 40,000 sq. m of netting has been used to secure the rock and pins have been used to brace the slopes.

The weakness with this option is the continuing risk of rock slides and closures to the road. The alternative routes are not suitable for trucks and increase travelling time.
Grade Boundary: High Achieved

4. For Achieved, the student needs to describe aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue.

This typically involves:

- describing the nature of the contemporary geographic issue
- describing the different viewpoints and/or opinions individuals (or groups) hold in relation to the issue
- describing the strength(s) and weakness(es) of possible courses of action
- recommending a course of action with a reason.

The student demonstrates some depth in their descriptions through the effective use of supporting detail of the issue.

The description of the nature of the issue shows use of specific case study evidence (2), which is also apparent in the planning diagram (1). Both parts of the response demonstrate understanding of the natural and cultural aspects, including the significance of the location.

Descriptions of two different viewpoints held in relation to the issue were completed by the student. The extract uses the viewpoint of local residents (3), and supports their description with some specific detail.

Strengths and weaknesses of three courses of action are described, with the extract focusing on option 1 (4).

To reach Merit, the student would need to include more detail in the description of each viewpoint than is shown in the local resident viewpoint (3). The strengths and weakness of each course of action need to be described in detail.
The geographic issue relates to road closures due to landslides.

The nature of the issue

The issue is that the Gorge road suffered a massive landslip of 370,000 cubic metres of rock and soil after a severe storm hit the area. This slip caused the road to be closed for 15 months. The road is now open but people still want to find a solution to the frequent slips and closures on the Gorge road. People have mainly been negatively affected by the road closure. Truck drivers have been forced to use alternative routes, Saddle road or the Pahiatua Track, this has meant more time on the road and longer journeys as these routes are 8km longer or more than the direct Gorge road. The environment has been affected. The rock face has lost over 370,000 sq.m. of rock and soil, debris has fallen into the Manawatu River. This has affected the water quality and the fish and invertebrates that live in the river and further downstream.

Different viewpoints

Local Residents: Residents on both sides of the Manawatu Gorge have been affected and are upset about the road closure. More traffic has been in Ashurst as the detour over Saddle road starts here. Residents who live in Woodville have been forced to spend more money ($60 a week) and time commuting to Palmerston North over the Track and the Saddle. Residents on both sides of the gorge need a long-term solution.

Strengths and weaknesses of the courses of action

Option 1: Keep the status quo - repair the road and move slips when they happen. $19 million has already been spent repairing Gorge road; the government would be stupid if they closed it now. The strengths are that the road has been repaired.
strengthened, bolted, and the rock face covered in mesh. It should last for a long time. The weakness of this option is that the weather in New Zealand cannot be relied upon, and a severe storm may cause another land slide or slip and cause the road to be closed.
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The student demonstrates understanding through simple descriptive responses that meet the requirements of the standard.

The nature of the issue is described (1), and the annotated map established the spatial dimension.

Brief descriptions of three viewpoints held in relation to the factory closure were completed by the student. The viewpoint of JP is clearly described with reasons (2), and the third viewpoint described by the student was that of the factory owner, which showed that the requirement of the standard for different viewpoints was met.

The student provided a strength and a weakness of each course of action. The extract shows a description of a strength (4), and an identified weakness (5). A recommendation is made with a reason (6).

For a more secure Achieved, the student would need to describe a strength and a weakness for each course of action, rather than give brief statements (5). The reason for the recommendation needs to further develop the ideas that were given as a ‘strength’ (4). The viewpoints of JP (2) and KS (3), while clearly related to the issue, are similar, and the standard requires ‘different viewpoints’ (see Explanatory Note 2).
The geographic issue relates to a factory closure.

The nature of the issue:

_An annotated map of the area was included with the description._

The issue is that the Woolwear factory is going to close and this will mean a lot of people will lose their jobs. There aren’t many other jobs in Eastwood because the freezing works and the timber mill have also closed in the last 6 years…Unemployment is fairly high and so this will probably mean that some people will have to leave Eastwood to find work…

Viewpoints:

**JP** is against the factory closing because it is a big employer in the town. He knows it will be hard to find another job in Eastwood and this might mean he has to move Alton or Parksville… JP says that other people will be like him and have to leave… His family will be unhappy if they have to leave because they like Eastwood and have lots of friends here.

**KS** also doesn’t want the factory to close. She just got the office job 6 months ago and doesn’t want to be unemployed again…

Option: Keep the factory open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tr>
<td>People keep jobs and stay in the town so this would support other businesses</td>
<td>Company loses money.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation: Keep the factory open.

I think it is important to keep the factory open because if the unemployment goes higher and people leave Eastwood this would create more problems for the whole town…
6. For Achieved, the student needs to describe aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue.

This typically involves:

- describing the nature of the contemporary geographic issue
- describing the different viewpoints and/or opinions individuals (or groups) hold in relation to the issue
- describing the strength(s) and weakness(es) of possible courses of action
- recommending a course of action with a reason.

The student demonstrates understanding of some aspects of the geographic issue through brief descriptions, and the selection of appropriate evidence.

Two different viewpoints held in relation to the issue were briefly described by the student. The description of JP’s viewpoint shows a clear identification of one viewpoint with reasons (2).

Both a strength and a weakness are given for one course of action (3) and a recommendation is given (4). The strength (3) can be considered the reason for the recommendation (see Explanatory Note 2).

To reach Achieved, the student would need to demonstrate understanding by applying, rather than copying the resource material. The nature of the issue needs to be described; listing is insufficient (1). The map could be annotated to more clearly demonstrate understanding of the spatial dimension of the issue.

The reason supporting the recommendation could focus more directly on the issue, rather than focus on the subsequent issue of unemployment.
The geographic issue relates to a factory closure.

The nature of the issue:
A map from the resources was included with the description of the nature of the issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The closure of the Woolwear factory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No other jobs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High unemployment (8.3%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>200 km from Alton and Parksville</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Viewpoints:

JP thinks that the factory should not close because he will lose his job. He needs this job so he can support his family. If the factory closes JP will have to leave Eastwood because there are no other jobs he can do. His family will not want to leave Eastwood and all their friends.

Option: Keep the factory open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tr>
<td>People keep jobs so less people are unemployed in Eastwood.</td>
<td>If the company doesn’t make a profit it might close later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation: Keep the factory open.
This is the best choice because it will stop more unemployment. Eastwood has high unemployment (8.3%).